



College and Career  
Guide  
2025-2026

# College Timeline

**August 1<sup>st</sup>:** UC application opens

**September 1<sup>st</sup>:** Gather letters of recommendation / Register for the SAT/ACT (**If applicable**)

**October 1<sup>st</sup>:** Cal State application opens / FASFA application opens

**Nov 30<sup>th</sup> / Dec 1<sup>st</sup>:** Cal State / UC applications close (**NO EXTENSIONS**)

**Feb-March:** College acceptance letters begin being disbursed

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** FASFA DEADLINE

**Mar-May:** Financial aid awards begin being disbursed

**April:** Create WebGrants4Students account

**May 1<sup>st</sup>:** National College Decision Day (**students must commit to the 4-year college they will be attending**)

| <u>Cal State Application</u>                              | <u>UC Application</u>                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apply at                                                  | Apply at                                                                |
| Application cost: \$70 (4 free if you qualify for waiver) | Application cost: \$80 (4 free if you qualify for waiver)               |
| GPA requirement: 2.0 or better                            | GPA requirement: 3.0 or better                                          |
| All classes must be passed with “C” or better             | All classes must be passed with “C” or better                           |
| SAT or ACT optional - no longer required                  | SAT or ACT optional - no longer required (subject test may be required) |
|                                                           | (4) Insight question responses must be submitted                        |

**(A-G Requirements must be completed before application. Check with counselor to ensure you are compliant)**

# **FINANCIAL AID**

## **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

Financial aid is money that helps students pay for college or career school.

It can come from the government, schools, or private sources. Financial aid can be in the form of grants (free money), scholarships (free money), work-study (part-time jobs on campus), or loans (money you borrow and pay back later).

Website: <https://studentaid.gov>

Opens October 1 (may vary).

Create FSA ID ( <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> )

Add schools you're applying to.

Submit before March 2 priority deadline.

## **CADAA (California Dream Act Application)**

The California Dream Act allows undocumented students and students with no social security number to get financial aid to help pay for college in California.

It lets eligible students apply for state grants, scholarships, and in some cases and fee waivers. It is also encouraged for a more secure filing method.

Website: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>

Opens Oct 1; deadline March 2.

## **Cal Grant**

The Cal Grant is free money from the state of California to help students pay for college.

You don't have to pay it back; it's awarded based on your grades, family income, and the type of college you attend.

Website: <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>

Submit FAFSA or CADAA + GPA Verification

LLA sends your GPA automatically.

## **College Promise Grant (for Community College)**

The College Promise Grant helps low-income students by waiving the cost of community college classes in California.

If you qualify, you don't have to pay enrollment fees, but you still need to pay for books and supplies.

Website: <https://home.cccapply.org/en/>

Apply through your CCC student portal (e.g., VVC Web Advisor or Self-Service).

Automatically linked to your FAFSA/CADAA application.

Covers tuition fees for eligible students.

### **Student Aid Index (SAI)**

The Student Aid Index (SAI) is a number used to figure out how much financial aid you can get for college.

It's based on your family's income, assets, and other financial info from your FAFSA or Dream Act Application.

The lower your SAI, the more aid you may qualify for. Colleges use this number to decide how much money they can give you to help pay for school.

| Grants                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Loans                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not need to be repaid</li><li>• Available based on demonstrated financial need</li><li>• Primarily available from the U.S. government</li><li>• File the FAFSA to apply</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be repaid, often with interest</li><li>• Available for almost all students, regardless of financial need</li><li>• Available from the U.S. government and private lenders</li><li>• File the FAFSA to apply or apply separately with private lenders</li></ul> |

# How to Apply to College

## **APPLYING TO UC (University of California) SCHOOLS**

1. Visit: <https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu>
2. Create an account.
3. Start application in August; submit between Oct 1 – Nov 30.
4. Fill in: personal info, academic history, activities, and (4) Personal Insight Questions.
5. Select campuses and majors.
6. Pay application fee (\$80 per campus) or request a fee waiver.
7. Review and submit before Nov 30.

## **APPLYING TO CSU (California State University) SCHOOLS**

1. Visit: <https://www.calstate.edu/apply>
2. Create an account.
3. Applications open Oct 1 – Nov 30.
4. Fill out academic info and CSU eligibility questions.
5. Choose campuses and majors.
6. Pay \$70 per campus or request a fee waiver.
7. Submit before Nov 30.

## **APPLYING TO CCC (California Community Colleges)**

### **Victor Valley College (VVC)**

1. Visit: <https://www.opencccapply.net> and select Victor Valley College.
2. Create an OpenCCC account.
3. Complete VVC application.
4. Apply for FAFSA or Dream Act.
5. Complete orientation online.
6. Take self-placement for math and English.
7. Meet with a counselor to create an education plan.
8. Register for classes on <https://www.vvc.edu>

## **COMMON APP**

1. Visit: <https://www.commonapp.org>
2. Create account and start application.
3. Add colleges to your list.
4. Fill in personal info, coursework, and essays.
5. Request letters of recommendation and upload transcripts.
6. Pay fees or apply for fee waivers.
7. Submit by each college's deadline.

How to use the common app: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmFkj6SPyQo>

# **SAT & ACT – TESTING & PREPARATION**

## **Register:**

- SAT: <https://www.collegeboard.org> (\$68 fee / \$34 late fee)
- ACT: <https://www.act.org> (\$88 fee / \$40 late fee)

For 4-year colleges (not required).

Fee waivers if you qualify for free or reduced lunch (please see Mr. Hanson).

(Must be taken by December in order for it to be considered on college application)

## **Study:**

- Use Khan Academy (linked with College Board for SAT).
- Buy or borrow prep books (Kaplan, Princeton Review).
- Take practice tests online.

## **Test Day:**

- Bring ID, ticket, calculator, and #2 pencils.
- Be early and well-rested.

## **Test Dates: SAT**

August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025 (Register by Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 25)

September 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Register by Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 25)

October 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Register by Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 25)

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Register by Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 25)

December 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Register by Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 25)

**Test Dates: ACT**

September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Register by Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 25)

October 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Register by Sep 12<sup>th</sup> 25)

December 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Register by Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 25)

# **A-G Requirements**

## **A – History/Social Science**

2 years

U.S. History & World History (or equivalent)

## **B – English**

4 years

Reading, writing, literature, etc.

## **C – Mathematics**

3 years (4 recommended)

Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 (or higher)

## **D – Science**

2 years (3 recommended)

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.

## **E – Language Other Than English**

2 years (3 recommended)

Same language (like Spanish 1 & 2)

## **F – Visual & Performing Arts**

1 year

Art, Music, Dance, Theater, etc.

## **G – College-Prep Elective**

1 year

Extra class from A-F areas or something like Psychology or Economics

# Scholarships

## **Scholarship Websites:**

### 1. BigFuture by College Board

Trusted source by the SAT/AP creators. Great search tool and verified scholarships.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

### 2. Scholarships.com

Huge and frequently updated database. Matches you with tons of opportunities.

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

### 3. Fastweb

Create a profile and get matched to scholarships that fit you.

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

### 4. Going Merry

Easy to use. Apply for scholarships right on the site.

<https://www.goingmerry.com/>

### 5. Bold.org

Offers exclusive scholarships. Email updates on new awards.

<https://bold.org/>

### 6. Niche

Known for college reviews, but also has solid scholarship listings.

<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>

### 7. Appily (formerly Cappex)

Find scholarships and colleges that match your goals.

<https://www.appily.com/>

### 8. Scholarships360

Vetted scholarships with direct applications. Easy to browse.

<https://scholarships360.org/>

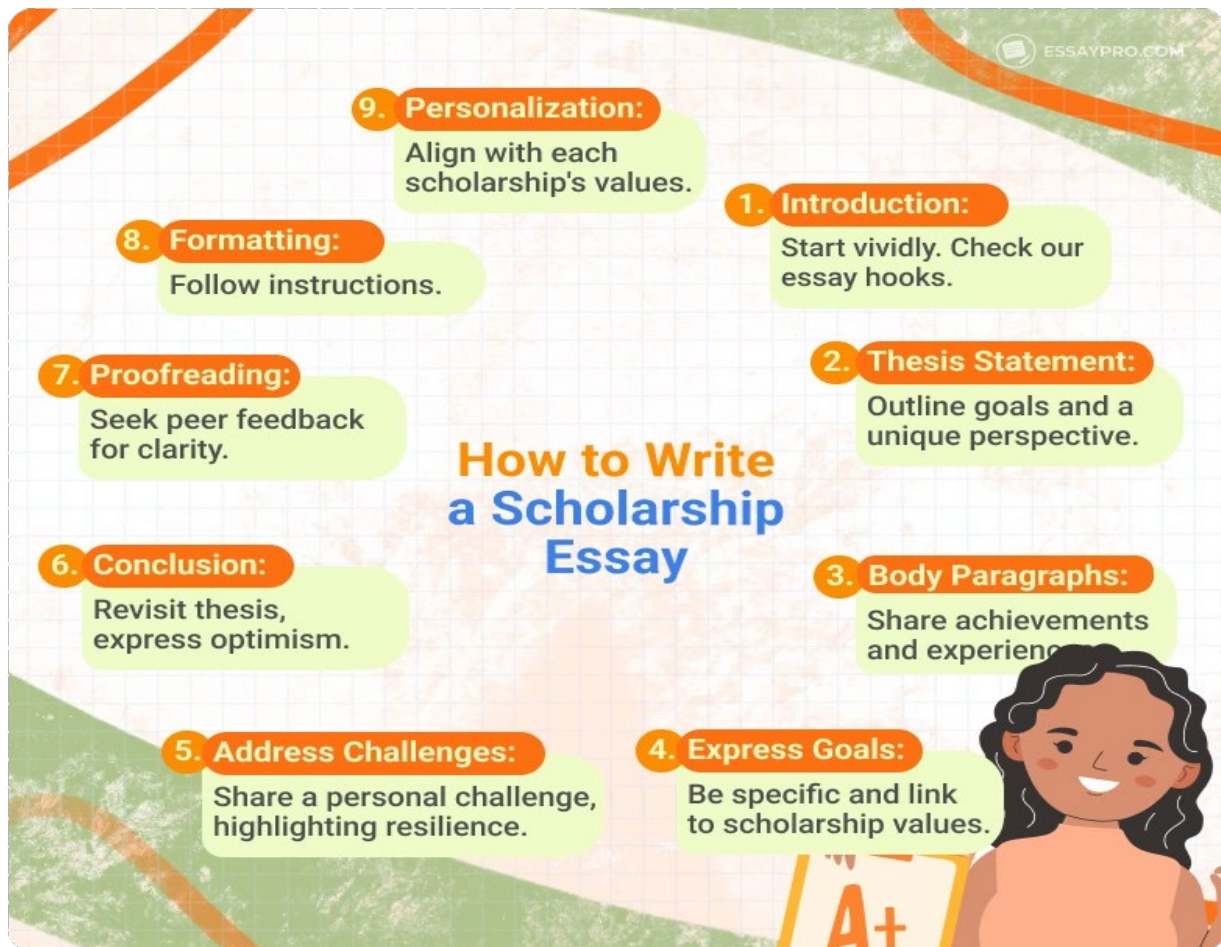
(Scholarships will be posted monthly)

### **Tips for Writing Scholarship Essays:**

<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/how-to-write-a-scholarship-essay>

<https://www.pierce.etc.edu/scholarships-essay-tips>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/scholarship-essays>



# **APPLYING TO THE MILITARY (All Branches)**

1. Research the branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Guard.
2. Talk to a local recruiter.
3. Take a practice ASVAB test at LLA and online.
4. Study for ASVAB:
  - Use <https://www.march2success.com>
  - Use ASVAB practice books.
5. Schedule and take the official ASVAB.
6. Pass a physical exam at MEPS.
7. Discuss job options based on your ASVAB scores.
8. Enlist and attend boot camp.

## **Benefits of Joining the Military:**

### **Education Benefits**

Tuition assistance is offered for college or trade school.

The GI Bill covers college costs after service.

ROTC scholarships are offered for future officers.

### **Job Training & Career Skills**

Learn hands-on skills in areas like technology, healthcare, mechanics, and more.

Earn certifications that can help in civilian jobs after service.

### **Steady Pay & Bonuses**

Receive a guaranteed paycheck twice a month.

Enlistment or re-enlistment bonuses (for certain jobs or needs).

### **Free or Low-Cost Health Care**

Medical, dental, and vision coverage for service members.

Family health care for those with eligible dependents.

### **Housing & Food Allowance**

Free housing on base or a stipend offered to live off base.

Meal allowances or access to free dining on base.

### **Travel Opportunities**

Chance to live or travel in the US and around the world.

Paid leave (vacation) each year.

### **Retirement & Pension Plans**

Retirement benefits after 20 years of service.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), similar to a 401(k).

### **Veterans Benefits After Service**

VA home loans with no down payment.

Continued education support.

Health care and job placement assistance.

### **Discipline & Personal Growth**

Builds confidence, leadership, and responsibility.

Structured environment that promotes growth.

### **Community & Pride**

Serving your country, making a difference, and being part of a respected national entity

# **Helpful Links**

## **How to Create an FSA ID:**

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out?sf42888877=1>

<https://www.road2college.com/fsa-id-what-it-is-how-to-create/>

## **How to Fill Out the FASFA:**

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out?sf42888877=1#start-form>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9apxxQrx-WY&t=80s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe3AwuonPg>

## **How to Apply to UC Colleges:**

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/filling-out-the-application.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vh3AbA2x3Dc>

## **How to Apply to CSU Colleges:**

<https://www.calstate.edu/apply/freshman/Documents/cal-state-apply-freshman-application-guide.pdf>

<https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/10-top-tips-cal-state-apply-2021.aspx>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUnF6XnBYYM>

## **How to Apply to VVC:**

<https://www.vvc.edu/steps-enrollment-high-school-students>

### **How to Sign Up for Military Service:**

[https://www.military.com/find-info/contact-recruiter?utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=ppc&ESRC=msn\\_recMilitary\\_broad\\_joining.kw&np=1&msclkid=ab39bd32a6e8112c20a0d5a0252a5268](https://www.military.com/find-info/contact-recruiter?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=ppc&ESRC=msn_recMilitary_broad_joining.kw&np=1&msclkid=ab39bd32a6e8112c20a0d5a0252a5268)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvflY8HaoCc> (Army)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJoPyejgRWk> (Air force)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOT-aU6VA7M> (Coast Guard)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wl7piJU4Xsw> (Marines)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1-honNThFU> (National Guard)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAzypiVyDQM> (Navy)

# Work Permits



## VICTOR VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT WORK PERMIT AGREEMENT

### A Work Permit is a Privilege!

By signing this agreement, the student requesting a work permit, the parent/guardian, and the employer acknowledges that you understand and agree to abide by the requirements of a work permit.

The Victor Valley Union High School District recognizes that part-time employment can give students needed supplementary income, valuable work experience, and enhanced self-esteem. However, the Victor Valley Union High School District also believes that outside employment should neither interfere with students' educational progress nor impair their health. In accordance with law, students must obtain work permits from school authorities before accepting employment. The Superintendent or designee shall issue work permits only as allowed by law and only to the extent that outside employment does not interfere with the student's school work.

**Student granted work permits must demonstrate and maintain the following:**

1. Satisfactory grades (minimum 2.0 GPA (2.5 GPA for CIMS and UP) and NO F's in any classes)
2. Satisfactory attendance (90% attendance record for the current and/or most recent grading period)
3. Employer location must be within 30 miles of the District Office/School Site.
4. Do not report to work on any day the student is absent from school
5. Student must renew the work permit by the expiration date. Students may NOT work with an expired work permit

In accordance with California Education Code (Sections 49116, 49164), a student's work permit shall be revoked whenever it is determined that employment is interfering with the student's education, any provision or condition of the permit is being violated, or that the student is performing work in violation of law.

**Revocation Policy:** If a student withdraws from our school, falls below a 2.0 GPA (2.5 GPA for CIMS and UP), has an F in any class during the most recent grading period, or leaves the place of employment, his/her work permit will be revoked and the employer will be notified. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Work Experience Teacher or the Career Guidance Technician of any change in employment.

At the discretion of the district designee, a student's work permit may be revoked, hours reduced, and/or placed on probation. If the work permit is revoked, the district designee will notify the student, parent/guardian, and employer that the student is no longer eligible to work.

If the student changes employer or has more than one employer, a new work permit is required for each employer. A student with more than one employer is required to submit regular time sheets from each employer to the Work Experience Teacher; the combined hours worked may not be the allowed work hours per state law and district policy.

If this agreement has been read and understood, please sign below. If there are questions regarding the Work Permit or this agreement, please contact the Work Experience Teacher, Katrina Williams, at (760) 955-3201 ext. 10287.

|                               |                     |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| _____<br>Student's Signature  | _____<br>Print Name | _____<br>Date |
| _____<br>Parent's Signature   | _____<br>Print Name | _____<br>Date |
| _____<br>Employer's Signature | _____<br>Print Name | _____<br>Date |

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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Congratulations on your new job. You are now a worker—that means you need to know your rights!



[laborcenter.berkeley.edu/rights](http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/rights)

For more information and details about these laws scan the QR code.



Make sure your boss pays you correctly, on time, and doesn't make you pay for extras, like uniforms. You should be paid for training time. You have the right to sick leave, breaks, a safe workplace, and more.



| EARNINGS STATEMENT                |                |             |               |                     |               |              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| EMPLOYEE NAME                     | SSN            | EMPLOYEE ID | CHECK NO.     | PAY PERIOD          | PAY DATE      |              |
|                                   |                | 43254123    | 15236         | 06/28/23 - 07/04/23 | 07/06/23      |              |
| INCOME                            | RATE           | HOURS       | CURRENT TOTAL | DEDUCTIONS          | CURRENT TOTAL | YEAR-TO-DATE |
| Regular                           | 22.00          | 40.00       | 880.00        | FICA MED TAX        | 12.16         | 344.52       |
|                                   |                |             |               | FICA SS TAX         | 54.56         | 1473.12      |
|                                   |                |             |               | FED TAX             | 131.20        | 3542.40      |
|                                   |                |             |               | CA ST TAX           | 52.00         | 1425.60      |
|                                   |                |             |               | SEI                 | 8.00          | 237.60       |
| Sick Leave: Hours Available 24.00 |                |             |               |                     |               |              |
| YTD GROSS                         | YTD DEDUCTIONS | YTD NET PAY | CURRENT TOTAL | CURRENT DEDUCTIONS  | NET PAY       |              |
| 23760.00                          | 7523.24        | 16236.76    | 880.00        | 268.12              | 479.88        |              |

## Don't get paid in cash!

You could get scammed! Your employer has to give you a pay stub showing your hourly wage, the hours you worked, your available paid sick leave, taxes, and other deductions.

## Minimum wage!

\$16.50 in 2025; increases every January 1.

Many cities have higher minimum wages.

Some special rules or exceptions may apply, depending on your job.

### TIPS:

Workers earning tips have the same minimum wage as other workers. Tips do NOT count toward your minimum wage. Your employer cannot take your tips.

### "SHOW UP" (OR "REPORTING TIME") PAY:

If you show up for your scheduled shift and your employer sends you home because there isn't enough work or gives you less than half of your usual or scheduled hours, you may be entitled to partial payment for the cut hours.

### GET YOUR CHECK ON TIME:

If your check is late, you are entitled to an additional payment. If you are fired you should receive your final paycheck on your last day of work.

Special minimum wage for fast-food workers!



\$20 per hour

### **Helpful Work Permit Links:**

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/dlseformB1-1.pdf> (B1-1 form)

<https://www.minimum-wage.org/california/child-labor-laws> (Child labor laws)

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/DLSE-CL.htm> (Child labor website)

### **Helpful Job Search Engines:**

<https://www.indeed.com/>

<https://www.careerbuilder.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/>

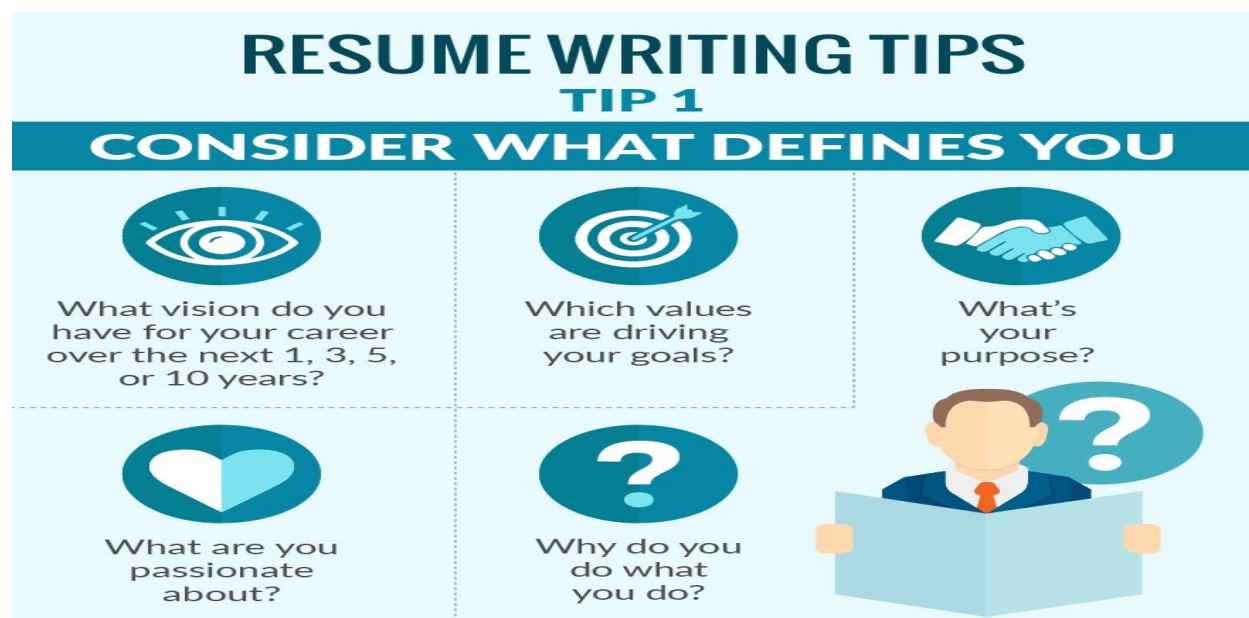
<https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>

<https://www.ziprecruiter.com/>

<https://www.monster.com/jobs?msockid=0955a6c85c55632a07efb3005dbb62b5>

### **Tips for Resume Building:**

<https://careerservices.fas.harvard.edu/resources/create-a-strong-resume/>



## Things to Include in a High School Resume



Volunteer Work



Extracurricular Activities



Informal Work Experience



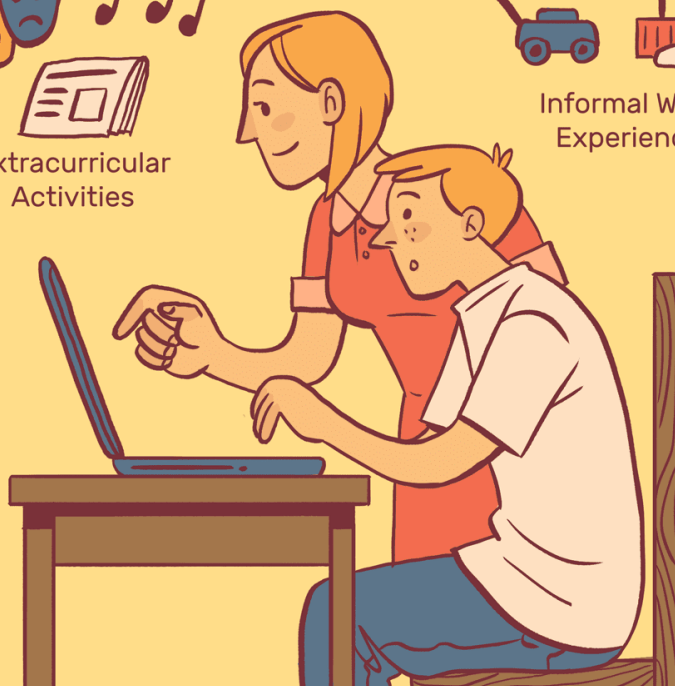
Athletic Pursuits



Academics



Achievements



## Tips for Interviewing:

<https://www.dol.gov/general/jobs/interview-tips>

<https://hbr.org/2021/11/10-common-job-interview-questions-and-how-to-answer-them>

# 16 Interview Tricks

## That will Set You Apart

### 1. Pause 2-3 seconds before answering

It shows thoughtfulness and maturity, not hesitation or insecurity - practice it in advance.

### 2. Bring 5 thoughtful questions

You may not get to all of them, but you want enough to show genuine curiosity and preparedness.

### 3. Bring a pen and notebook

Don't overdo it, but taking a few notes shows engagement and can help you remember key points.

### 4. Arrive 10 minutes before your time

Any earlier can make it awkward for the team; any later risks looking disorganized.



### 5. Treat everyone with respect

People often ask receptionists or coordinators how you treated them - it counts.

### 6. Spend 1 hour researching

Look at their website, LinkedIn pages, and recent news or posts - it shows real interest.

### 7. Own your red flags directly

Address resume gaps or past mistakes briefly and confidently, without getting defensive.

### 8. Use 60-90 seconds per answer

Long enough to provide substance, short enough to stay focused and interesting.

### 9. Match their tone and pace

Don't imitate, but don't just speak loud and fast to a quiet and thoughtful interviewer.

### 10. Use the interviewer's name

Once or twice during the interview - just enough to feel personal, not forced.

### 11. If you don't know, say so

"That's a great question - I'm not sure, but here's how I'd approach it..." shows humility and problem-solving.

### 12. Focus on one main idea in each answer

In addition to keeping things brief, try to hit one theme per response so your point is clear.

### 13. Prioritize lessons learned

If asked about past jobs, spend 90% of your time on what you learned - not what went wrong.

### 14. Show your interest physically

Sit up straight, lean forward slightly, keep your hands visible, make eye contact, and nod occasionally.

### 15. Stay calm and recover with grace

If something goes wrong (tech glitch, you draw a blank): breathe, smile, and say, "Let me try that again."

### 16. Send a personal thank you note

Within 24 hours, send a 4-6 sentence thank you email that's sincere, enthusiastic, and specific.

# What **Not** to Say in Job Interviews

## And What **to** Say Instead

❌ **Don't say:** "I don't have questions"

🟡 **Why:** That's a big missed opportunity - and a red flag in terms of your curiosity

✅ **Say:** "What would success look like in the first 6 months of this role?"

❌ **Don't say:** "I'm looking for any job right now"

🟡 **Why:** Seems desperate, rather than genuinely interested

✅ **Say:** "I'm looking to use XYZ strengths, and I'm excited about how this role aligns"

❌ **Don't say:** "I hated my last boss"

🟡 **Why:** Never bash a former boss to a future boss

✅ **Say:** "I learned a lot in my previous job, especially about X, but I'm excited for a new challenge now"

❌ **Don't say:** "I don't know much about your company"

🟡 **Why:** Suggests a lack of preparation and interest in the role

✅ **Say:** "I've researched the company and I'm particularly impressed with X - I'd love to hear your perspective on it"



❌ **Don't say:** "How much does this job pay?"

🟡 **Why:** You can get this answered without sounding like you care more about pay than the role itself

✅ **Say:** "I'm excited about this, and I'd love to understand the comp range to ensure it fits my expectations"

❌ **Don't say:** "I don't have weaknesses"

🟡 **Why:** This seems arrogant and like you lack self-awareness

✅ **Say:** "I've been working to improve on X recently, and after taking Y steps I've grown substantially"

❌ **Don't say:** "I'm not great at time management"

🟡 **Why:** On the flip side, don't just say weaknesses without also showing growth

✅ **Say:** "Time management has been a focus for me - I now use X tools to stay organized and hit deadlines"

❌ **Don't say:** "I know I'm underqualified, but..."

🟡 **Why:** Don't undercut yourself - focus on your strengths

✅ **Say:** "I'm excited to use my experience to lean into the challenges of this role and learn and grow quickly"

❌ **Don't say:** "I was fired from my previous role"

🟡 **Why:** Fair or not, being fired carries a stigma

✅ **Say:** "My previous role ended unexpectedly, but it gave me the chance to reflect and strengthen my skills in X"

❌ **Don't say:** "I don't really have career goals"

🟡 **Why:** Most employers prefer to see a degree of hunger to learn and grow

✅ **Say:** "My short-term goal is to excel in this role, and long-term, I aim to grow in X areas"

❌ **Don't say:** "When can I get promoted?"

🟡 **Why:** In contrast to the last one, blatant climbing isn't ideal either

✅ **Say:** "What does career growth look like, and how are employees supported in reaching their potential?"